

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A clamping apparatus for electrically connecting at least a first ground wire to a grounding member, the clamping apparatus comprising:

(a) a bottom clamping member comprising a bottom medial portion and first and second threaded holes on first and second sides of the bottom medial portion for accepting first and second screws, respectively, the first and second threaded holes disposed along first and second longitudinal axes, respectively;

(b) a top clamping member ~~cooperating~~ for cooperation with the bottom clamping member and comprising a top medial portion ~~aligned to cooperate~~ for cooperation with the bottom medial portion, the top clamping member comprising and corresponding first and second holes on first and second sides, respectively, of the top clamping member for alignment with ~~medial portion that correspond to~~ the first and second threaded holes of the bottom clamping member; [[and]]

(c) a fixedly positioned trough comprising a base wall and a first and second side ~~[[wall]]~~ walls, the trough ~~base wall being attached to the top medial portion of the top clamping member~~ positioned on a side of the top

Serial No.: 10/689,465

clamping member opposite the bottom clamping member, the first side wall having a threaded hole ~~[[and]]~~ for receiving a set screw adapted to matingly engage the threaded hole and to tighten against the second side wall, wherein the trough ~~is arranged with~~ comprises an opening between the first and second side wall ~~walls[[,]]~~ ; and

(d) ~~whereby a wherein the set screw is positioned such that when~~ the first ground wire ~~[[is]]~~ can be positioned in the trough~~[[, the]]~~ and a set screw ~~can be tightened to apply pressure so that the first ground wire is secured~~ received through the threaded hole of the trough to secure the first ground wire against ~~between the set screw and the second side wall wherein~~ ~~[[and]]~~ the set screw ~~extends~~ can extend outside the trough along ~~an~~ a third longitudinal axis ~~that intersects~~ intersecting at least substantially perpendicularly with at least one of the first and second longitudinal axes ~~an axis of the first screw at a point above the first screw.~~

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the corresponding first and second holes on first and second sides, respectively, of the top ~~medial portion~~ clamping member are slightly larger in diameter than the threaded holes of the bottom clamping member to allow a screw to pass through each hole in the top clamping member and thread into the corresponding threaded hole in the bottom clamping member, ~~thereby for~~

Serial No.: 10/689,465

providing a clamping action around ~~[[the]]~~ a ground member between the top and bottom clamping members ~~when the screws are tightened.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the trough opening is ~~arranged so that the~~ adapted for receiving a first ground wire that can be laid-in the trough at ~~[[some]]~~ an intermediate point on the ground wire.
13. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein one or both of the top and bottom medial portions are crowned in a direction away from the respective other medial portion to create an opening between the top and bottom clamping members for accommodating ~~[[the]]~~ a grounding member.
14. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 13, wherein one or both of the crowned medial ~~portion(s)~~ portions has a serrated surface within the opening between the top and bottom clamping members for accommodating the grounding member.
15. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a ~~wherein the~~ set screw ~~[[has]]~~ having a rounded end for applying clamping pressure against the first ground wire.
16. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a ~~wherein the~~ set screw ~~further includes~~ having a sliding wedge affixed to an end of the set screw, the wedge adapted to move through the trough as the set screw is tightened and to engage ~~[[the]]~~ a first ground wire for applying clamping pressure against the first ground wire in cooperation with the second side wall.

Serial No.: 10/689,465

17. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 9, wherein the trough is adapted to accommodate an additional second ground wire laid-in along side ~~[[the]]~~ a first ground wire in the trough, ~~[[said]]~~ the first and second ground wires being mechanically and electrically connected by the clamping pressure of the set screw.
18. (Currently Amended) A clamping apparatus for electrically connecting at least a first ground wire to a grounding member, the clamping apparatus comprising:
- (a) a bottom clamping member comprising a bottom medial portion and first and second threaded holes on first and second sides of the bottom medial portion ~~for accepting~~ receiving first and second screws, respectively, the first and second screws disposed along first and second longitudinal axes, respectively;
 - (b) a top clamping member ~~cooperating~~ for cooperation with the bottom clamping member and comprising a top medial portion ~~aligned to cooperate~~ for cooperation with the bottom medial portion, the top clamping member comprising ~~and corresponding~~ first and second holes on first and second sides, respectively, of the top clamping member receiving ~~medial portion that correspond to the first and second threaded holes~~ screws; ~~[[and]]~~
 - (c) a fixedly positioned trough comprising a base wall and ~~[[a]]~~ first and second side ~~[[wall]]~~ walls, the trough ~~base wall being attached to the top medial portion of the top clamping member~~ positioned on a side of the top

clamping member opposite the bottom clamping member, the trough defining
~~and arranged with~~ an opening between the first and second side wall~~[[, and]]~~;
and

(d) a threaded hole defined by the trough through the first side wall
~~adapted to~~ and matingly engage engaging a set screw positioned disposed
along a ~~[[first]]~~ third longitudinal axis that intersects at least ~~substantially~~
~~perpendicularly with~~ at least one of the first and second screws ~~a second axis~~
~~of the first screw~~ at a point above the first or second screw.

19. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, wherein the
corresponding first and second holes on first and second sides, respectively,
of the top ~~medial portion~~ clamping member are slightly larger in diameter than
the threaded holes of the bottom clamping member ~~to allow a screw to pass~~
~~through each hole in the top clamping member and thread into the~~
~~corresponding threaded hole in the bottom clamping member, thereby~~
~~providing a clamping action around the ground member between the top and~~
~~bottom clamping members when the screws are tightened.~~
20. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, wherein the trough
opening is ~~arranged so that the~~ adapted for receiving a first ground wire that
can be laid-in the trough at an intermediate point on the ground wire.
21. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, wherein the trough
is adapted to accommodate ~~[[the]]~~ a first ground wire and a second ground
wire laid-in along side the first ground wire in the trough.

Serial No.: 10/689,465

22. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, wherein one or both of the top and bottom medial portions are crowned in a direction away from the respective other medial portion to create an opening between the top and bottom clamping members for accommodating ~~[[the]]~~ a grounding member.
23. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim 18, wherein one or both of the crowned medial ~~portion(s)~~ portions has a serrated surface within the opening between the top and bottom clamping members for accommodating the grounding member.
24. (Cancelled)
25. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 18, wherein the set screw has a rounded end for applying clamping pressure against ~~[[the]]~~ a first ground wire.
26. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 18, wherein the set screw further includes a sliding wedge affixed to an end of the set screw, the wedge adapted to move through the trough as the set screw is tightened and to engage ~~[[the]]~~ a first ground wire for applying clamping pressure against the first ground wire in cooperation with the second side wall.
27. (Currently Amended) The clamping apparatus of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 18, wherein the trough is adapted to accommodate ~~an additional~~ a second ground wire laid-in along side ~~[[the]]~~ a first ground wire in the trough, the first and second ground wires being electrically connected by the clamping pressure of the set screw.